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January
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Brrrrring on the energy debate

By Anthony Adragna, Politico • • Posted 2018-01-05 06:55:14

Few expect FERC to go along completely with Perry's suggestion to give blanket financial support to coal and nuclear plants year-round, but the bone-chilling weather nevertheless presents an opportunity for people on both sides of Perry's plan to defend their position: Any outages will be a rallying I-told-you-so moment for Perry's backers that FERC should look at the issue more closely, while an uneventful week further blunts his ear-twisting over an inevitable grid "crisis." [[read more ...](#)]

America's Power Grid Still Hangs Tough in Face of Winter Wallop

By Tim Loh, Bloomberg • • Posted 2018-01-05 06:56:45

The past week's arctic freeze has already battered the U.S. power system, threatening fuel supplies from the Midwest to the Northeast. Now, with a one-two punch of heavy snow and bone-rattling cold on the way, grid operators say this: We're good. "Everything looks to be on track to remain reliable," Chris Pilon, director of dispatch for PJM Interconnection LLC, which stretches from Illinois to Washington D.C., said on a conference call Wednesday. "Maybe Sunday and into Monday of next week, we should get ourselves back to at least the freezing mark." [[read more ...](#)]

Arctic Blast Heating Up Battle Between Energy Lobbying Groups

By Tim Loh, Bloomberg • • Posted 2018-01-05 06:55:36

The competing explanations for what's holding the U.S. power grid together thus far signal more battles ahead. Later this month, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is set to act on sweeping proposal by Energy Secretary Rick Perry that would bail out some coal and nuclear plants because they can stockpile months' worth of fuel on site — something backers of the plan say will come in handy in moments like this, and that opponents say is unnecessary at a time of record gas production and steadily growing renewable energy. [

[read more ... \]](#)

Trump Moves to Open Nearly All Offshore Waters to Drilling

By LISA FRIEDMAN, New York Times • • Posted 2018-01-05 06:56:07

The Trump administration said Thursday it would allow new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all United States coastal waters, giving energy companies access to leases off California for the first time in decades and opening more than a billion acres in the Arctic and along the Eastern Seaboard. The proposal lifts a ban on such drilling imposed by President Barack Obama near the end of his term and would deal a serious blow to his environmental legacy. It would also signal that the Trump administration is not done unraveling environmental restrictions in an effort to promote energy production. [[read more ... \]](#)

Zinke open to tweaks as plan draws strong reactions

Rob Hotakainen, E&E New • • Posted 2018-01-05 06:56:25

Talk about a reversal. While critics estimated the Obama administration put 94 percent of the outer continental shelf off-limits to oil and gas development, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said today he wants to make more than 90 percent of the OCS open for leasing. [[read more ... \]](#)

Cuomo focuses on climate in big speech; some greens shrug

Benjamin Storrow, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2018-01-05 06:58:01

The annual addresses delivered by America's governors are, by their nature, political wish lists. But even by that standard, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's (D) eighth State of the State address yesterday was a doozy. The Empire State's chief executive called for divesting state pension funds from fossil fuels, outlined plans to nudge offshore wind online and promised to sue the federal government if Washington releases General Electric Co. from its cleanup obligations along the Hudson River. Cuomo's speech was accompanied by policy proposals to end coal use in New York, close an emissions loophole on small oil-fired power plants, and establish targets for energy storage and efficiency. [[read more ... \]](#)

Air chief says challenging endangerment finding is possible

Robin Bravender, E&E News reporter • • Posted 2018-01-05 06:58:45

Top U.S. EPA officials are considering using a formal climate science critique to re-examine the endangerment finding that underpins greenhouse gas rules. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt wants to "be sure that the scientific basis for the endangerment finding is solid." One option that officials are considering is using a "red-team, blue-team" approach advocated by Pruitt to debate mainstream climate science. [[read more ... \]](#)

Lawyers debate clean power plan rule at Federalist Society

Josh Kurtz, E&E News • • Posted 2018-01-05 06:59:00

Two well-known environmental lawyers debated the legal future of the Clean Power Plan yesterday — but wound up sounding more like junior economists by the time the event was through. The conservative Federalist Society gave Thomas Lorenzen, an industry lawyer at

Crowell & Moring LLP, and David Doniger, senior strategic director of the Climate & Clean Energy program at the Natural Resources Defense Council, a forum to discuss the CPP, which remains stalled in federal court as the Trump administration seeks to dismantle it. [[read more ...](#)]

California Bill Seeks Ban on Fossil-Fueled Vehicles by 2040

By Ryan Beene, Bloomberg • • Posted 2018-01-05 06:57:09

California would ban the sale of new cars and trucks powered by fossil fuels in 2040 under legislation introduced Wednesday in the state legislature. "We're at an inflection point: we've got to address the harmful emissions that cause climate change," Democratic Assemblymember Phil Ting, the bill's author, said in a statement. [[read more ...](#)]

GM sells more than 20,000 Chevy Bolts in 2017

By Claudia Assis, Market Watch • • Posted 2018-01-05 06:57:27

General Motors Co. sold more than 3,000 Chevy Bolts in the U.S. in December, the best sales month for the mass-market electric car since its launch and a milestone that tipped the Bolt's 2017 sales to more than 20,000. The Bolt, which starts around \$38,000 before tax credits, has also fulfilled GM's expectations that it would bring new customers to GM's Chevrolet, likely better-known for its Camaro and Corvette sports cars, and to electric vehicles. [[read more ...](#)]

Electric Car Drivers Are Too Smart to Own Electric Cars

By Kyle Stock, Bloomberg • • Posted 2018-01-05 06:57:46

Jeffrey Jablansky is the very model of a savvy electric-vehicle early adopter. He opted for a Chevrolet Bolt early last year, choosing a vehicle far ahead of all others by his preferred metric: electric range per dollar. But he never considered buying the car; instead, he pays \$220 per month to lease the vehicle. "I just think in three years I'm going to be delighted at what else is available," said Jablansky, who writes about cars as a freelance journalist. "And we're going to laugh one day that we used to plug cars in for eight hours at a time." [[read more ...](#)]

Warren Buffett proclaims optimism for America's financial future

By Jonathan Stempel, Reuters • • Posted 2018-01-05 06:58:24

Warren Buffett, the billionaire investor renowned for his preternatural optimism for America and its citizens' well-being, on Thursday encouraged those worried about the economic prospects for themselves and their children to shed their fears. In an essay for the Jan. 15 issue of Time magazine, the chairman of the insurance and investment company Berkshire Hathaway Inc tried to allay concerns that innovation and improved productivity might cost jobs and disrupt lives. [[read more ...](#)]

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